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TRANSACTIONS OF THE SOCIETY FOR 1882.

Annual meeting of the American Geographical Society, held at Chickering Hall, Tuesday, Jan. 10, 1882, at 8 o'clock P.M.

Vice-President Gen. GEO. W. CULLUM, in the chair.

The reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was, on motion, dispensed with.

The following gentlemen were elected Fellows of the Society :

William Parsons (L. F.), Wendell Goodwin, Col. G. L. Gillespie, Wm. Barclay Parsons, Dr. Montrose A. Pallen, Jacob F. Bamberger, Wilbur Dixon Ellis, Herman Oelrichs, Dr. Louis F. Sass, Nelson S. Easton, Walter D. Edmonds, Granville Nicholson, E. Rhinehart.

The annual report of the treasurer, Mr. George Cabot Ward, was read, showing a cash balance for the general fund of \$822.88, and the amount to the credit of the permanent fund \$12,352.57. The report was accepted and ordered to be placed on file.

The annual report of the Council was then presented and read, as follows :

New York, January 7, 1882. The Council of the American Geographical Society submits the following report :

Since the last annual report seven meetings of the Society and eleven meetings of the Council have been held. On the 11th of January, 1881, Commander John R. Bartlett, U. S. Navy, read a paper on "The Recent Investigations of the Gulf Stream by the U. S. Coast and Geodetic steamer Blake."

On Jan. 25, 1881, Gen. G. W. Cullum, U. S. Army, Vice-President of the Society, read a paper "On the Land of Egypt."

On Feb. 17, 1881, Mr. John Banvard read a paper on the "Hierology and Reading of the Obelisks of Egypt,"

On March 25, 1881, Commander Henry H. Gorringe, U. S. Navy, read a paper entitled "A Cruise along the Northern Coast of Africa."

On May 10, 1881, Mr. James Douglas, Jr., read a paper on "Chili : Its Geography, People, and Institutions."

On Nov. 25, 1881, Dr. Isaac I. Hayes delivered a lecture on "The Water-Ways of New York."

On Dec. 21, 1881, Rev. William Elliot Griffis delivered a lecture on "Corea, the Hermit Nation."

All the lectures but one were illustrated by stereopticon views.

The annual report of the treasurer, Mr. George Cabot Ward, shows a cash balance for the general fund of \$822.88, and that the permanent fund is \$12,352.57.

Seventy-seven Fellows have been elected and qualified during the year, and twelve have become Life Fellows by the payment of \$100 each.

One Corresponding member has been elected.

The publications of the Society have been regularly distributed to the Fellows and also to 121 geographical and other scientific bodies of Europe and America with which this Society is in correspondence and exchange.

The additions to the library and its map-room have amounted to 1,038 items, of which 403 are books, 578 pamphlets, 52 maps, and 5 atlases.

In conclusion the Council congratulates the Fellows on the very prosperous condition of the Society.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) WILLIAM REMSEN,
Chairman of Council.

The Committee on Nominations appointed Dec. 21, 1881, to select candidates to fill vacancies, presented its report as follows :

The Nominating Committee appointed to select officers to fill vacancies, under resolution of the Society passed at the meeting of Dec. 21, 1881, respectfully report the selection of the following nominees for election :

For President—Charles P. Daly.

For Vice-President—George W. Cullum.

For Foreign Corresponding Secretary—J. Carson Brevoort.

For Treasurer—George Cabot Ward.

For Councillors—W. H. H. Moore, Isaac Bernheimer, Paul B. Du Chaillu, Charles H. Baldwin, D. O. Mills.

(Signed)

DAVID P. HOLTON, *Chairman.*

THOMAS ADDIS EMMET,

DAVID S. BANKS,

Nominating Committee.

On motion the report was accepted and, a ballot being had, the nominees were unanimously elected.

Gen. George W. Cullum then read a most interesting paper, entitled, "The Acropolis of Athens."

The thanks of the Society were voted to Gen. Cullum, and a copy of his paper was requested for publication.

On motion the meeting adjourned.

Meeting of February 24th, held at Chickering Hall.

Vice-President GEO. W. CULLUM in the chair.

The reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was, on motion, dispensed with.

The following gentlemen were elected Fellows of the Society—Spencer D. Schuyler (L. F.), William H. Osborn (L. F.), George H. Dunham, Wm. B. Cooper, Jr. ; James C. Parish, Joseph H. Parsons, Austin D. Middleton, James H. Percival, James D. Ray, Frank S. Belton, Wm. Conger Pell, Caleb P. Marsh, John L. Nisbet, Ulysses D. Eddy, James M. Dunbar, Abraham L. Earle, Samuel Parsons, Rev. Mylton Mury, S. H. Robbins T. J. O. Rhineland, Charles, H. Fellows, John Jasper, Jr., Dr. H. F. Quackenbos, George H. Brouwer, Robert Dunlap (L.F.), S. C. Gallaher, C. Lawrence Perkins, John P. Marquand, Leland Fairbanks, Jr., Richard H. Dodge, Joseph Naylor, Wm. G. Read, Ed. L. Oppenheim, William Calhoun, John McWilliam.

Gen. Cullum then read a series of resolutions, which had been approved by the Council, advocating the selection of a prime meridian, and suggesting that a special International Commission should meet at Washington to consider the subject. In introducing these resolutions Gen. Cullum said :

The importance of the selection of a definite prime meridian has long been felt. The use of different meridians by different countries has caused much confusion. To obviate this difficulty, geographers have often brought before the different governments the necessity of concerted action, but such action has never been taken. It is now proposed that the meridian of 180 degrees from Greenwich should be taken as the prime meridian.

This meridian would pass near Behring Strait, and would thus allay the prejudices of all countries. In connection with this is the question of standard time. It is proposed that starting from the prime meridian, there should be standard meridians, and each of these should have its own time.

These meridians, twenty-four in all, might be designated by the letters of the alphabet. The plan of having a standard time is adopted by England and Italy, and in some cases it varies as much as twenty minutes from the true time.

By the method proposed, there would never be a variation of over thirty minutes. The hours should also be numbered from 1 to 24, instead of in a double series of 12.

On motion of Judge Peabody, Chief Justice Charles P. Daly, Gen. G. W. Cullum, Horatio G. Wright, W. B. Hazen, and Benjamin Alvord were appointed a committee to present to the government the views of the Society on this subject, in accordance with the resolutions of the Council, read by Gen. Cullum.

Gen. Cullum then introduced to the meeting Mr. George Kennan, who delivered an interesting address on "Siberia, the Exiles' Abode, and the Sufferings of the Survivors of the Jeannette."

At the conclusion of the address, Prof. Theodore W. Dwight moved a vote of thanks to the lecturer, which was unanimously passed.

Remarks were made by Judge Peabody and Chief-Justice Daly, and the meeting then, on motion, adjourned.

Meeting of March 21, 1882, held at Chickering Hall.

Vice-President G. W. CULLUM in the chair.

The reading of the minutes of the last meeting was, on motion, dispensed with.

The following gentlemen were elected Fellows :

Lewis A. Sayre, M.D. (L. F.), Edward N. Tailer (L. F.), Wilson Waddingham (L. F.), Uriah Welch, C. H. McKnight, Wm. H. Osgood, Felix Samson, Eugene Thomson, John H. Wadsworth, John T. Terry, William Q. Riddle, Thomas C. Platt, John E. Parsons, Samuel Raynor, Nicholas Rath, George S. Scott, Henry M. Taber (L. F.), Benj. A. Willis (L. F.), M. M. Vail, Leicester P. Holme, Frederick Watson, Peter C. Schuyler, H. K. Thurber, Richard M. Raven, W. E. Redding, Archibald W. Speir, John Paton, Walton J. Peck, Charles Parsons, Ezra Wheeler, W. T. Moore, Edward Lambert, Woodbury Langdon, Lansing Lamont, Richard Nelson, Erastus F. Mead.

Felix A. Mathews, U. S. Consul-General for Morocco, and Horatio J. Sprague, U. S. Consul at Gibraltar, were elected Corresponding members.

Gen. Cullum then introduced the speaker of the evening, Gen. R. E. Colston, (late of the Egyptian Army), who delivered a lecture on, "Modern Egypt and Its People."

The large audience listened with marked attention, and a vote of thanks, moved and seconded, was unanimously passed to Gen. Colston.

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

Meeting of April 13, 1882, held at Chickering Hall, Vice-President G. W. CULLUM in the chair.

The reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was, on motion, dispensed with.

The following gentlemen were elected Fellows of the Society :

Giles E. Taintor, Charles M. Peck, Francis H. Markoe, James B. Olney, Charles H. Phillips, Samuel M. Mills, Wm. F. Ladd, Thomas M. North, Theo. F. Hascall, Herman L. Le Roy, Wm. L. Skidmore, Francis W. Williams.

Gen. Cullum then introduced the speaker of the evening, President Daly, who gave a very interesting address on, "Spain, the Straits of Gibraltar and Tangier in 1881." Judge Daly said he had selected Spain as a country unlike any other in Europe and espe-

cially interesting to Americans, because it was the motherland of Central and South America. He thought that the Spaniards were much misunderstood and very often misrepresented by travellers, to whom they were nevertheless uniformly courteous and kindly. He had found them an independent and spirited people.

The thanks of the Society were voted to Judge Daly and the meeting, on motion, adjourned.

Meeting of November 17, 1882, held at Chickering Hall.

Chief-Justice DALY, President, in the chair.

On motion, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.

The following gentlemen were elected Fellows of the Society :

Lewis H. Lapham, William E. Gilbert, Charles G. Otis, George Gordon King, Rev. J. R. Paxton, Thos. McElrath, Octavius D. Baldwin, Franklin W. Campbell, Francis M. Bacon, John L. Williams, George H. Babcock, Samuel F. Barger, J. Pierrepont Edwards, Charles B. Reynolds, William S. Hawk, Daniel W. Willard, Simon W. Sibley, Wm. P. St. John, Le Roy King, Dr. L. T. Sheffield, Banger Clarkson, Albert Gallup, Gustave N. Ballin, Hugh W. Adams, James I. Higginson, John S. King, Roswell G. Rolston, August H. Edinger, Newcomb C. Barney, Thos. J. Falls, Jr., Jno. W. Emerson.

Frank Vincent, Jr., was elected a Corresponding member of the Society.

President Daly then introduced to the Society Mr. Paul B. Du Chaillu, who gave an interesting account of his recent journeys in Norway, Sweden, Lapland, and Northern Finland. The lecture was illustrated by stereopticon views.

The Society passed a vote of thanks to the lecturer and, on motion, the meeting adjourned.

Meeting (Special) of Dec. 4, 1882, held at the rooms of the Society, 11 W. 29th st.

Chief-Justice Daly introduced the subject of the evening : "The Portraits of Columbus." It was curious, he said, that so much un-

certainly prevailed as to the facts in the life of one of the most distinguished men who ever lived.

The date of his birth was not settled and 23 localities dispute the honor of having given him birth. His son Fernando described him as blue-eyed and fair-haired, with an aquiline nose ; and adds that his hair turned white at the age of thirty.

Oviedo, who knew him, says that he was above the medium height, of powerful frame, and red-haired. His manner in speaking was gentle. Of the portraits displayed before the meeting, Judge Daly gave the preference to the original of the engraving in Paulus Jovius ; and after this, in order, he classed the original of the engraving published by Capriola, the picture in the Bibliographical Manual of Madrid, and the picture in the Naval Museum at Madrid ; of which last a copy was shown. The portrait at Albany, highly prized as it was, was wholly apocryphal. Mr. Nestor Ponce de Leon then read a paper, which classified under 30 general types the 200 portraits of Columbus which he had examined. He agreed with Judge Daly in his selection of the most faithful pictures. After remarks made by other members of the Society the meeting, on motion, adjourned.

Meeting of Dec. 18, 1882, held at Chickering Hall.

Chief-Justice DALY, President, took the chair.

It was voted, on motion, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.

The following gentlemen were elected Fellows of the Society :

David Williams (L. F.), Mr. Edwin Parsons (L. F.), John T. Ijams, J. Grahame Gardiner, F. R. Coudert, Fredk. P. Garrettson, Henry W. Jenkins, Joseph P. Earle, Dr. W. E. Hoag, William Viall Chapin, H. G. Peterson, Roscoe K. Ingalls, Vincent C. King (L. F.), Robert Winthrop (L. F.), John Emmons, Fredk. W. Gade, Charles Scribner, Charles Rhineland, H. T. Imbrie, Rev. N. W. Conkling, C. L. Rathborne. Rev. Marvin R. Vincent, W. R. Morgan, Jr., Robt. H. Lamborn.

Lieut. J. W. Danenhower was elected a Corresponding member.

President Daly then introduced the speaker of the evening, the Hon. A. D. White, late U. S. Minister to Germany, who delivered

an elaborate address on the constitution, development, and condition of the German empire. The thanks of the Society were voted to Mr. White, and, on motion, the President then appointed the following gentlemen a Nominating Committee to select candidates for the ensuing year, to report at the annual meeting in January : Oliver P. Hubbard, Chairman, James O. Wilson, and John McMullen.

On motion, the meeting adjourned.